



## WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

### For Immediate Release

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News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

### WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, LOCAL HOSPITALS COLLABORATING TO FUND NEW PLANNING INITIATIVE

**JOLIET** – “In Will County, every life has value. All individuals have the opportunity to realize their full potential and to achieve the highest quality of life. We are a community rich in diversity, where involvement and commitment have deep roots among our residents.”

This is the beginning of the vision statement developed as a result of the MAPP Project in Will County. MAPP stands for Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership, a six-phase process designed to help communities such as Will County develop and implement a strategic plan that improves public health.

The MAPP Project is guided by a 25-member steering committee drawn from a broad representation of Will County organizations. Numerous agencies and organizations are contributing staff and resources to help make the MAPP process a reality. Funding for the process is jointly provided by the Health Department, Silver Cross Hospital, Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center, and Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital.

“This is truly becoming a community effort” said Vanessa Newsome, a Will County Health Department Program Manager and the Project Coordinator for MAPP. “The public health system is broad and diverse. It includes more than the Health Department. It also includes, but is not limited to, health care providers, philanthropy organizations, education, businesses, social service agencies, government, and the faith community. Everyone is playing an important role.”

Plans are underway to conduct four separate community assessments. One of the assessments is planned for September 30, at the New Life Church in New Lenox.

This assessment is based on the 10 essential services of public health. It will look at the organizations that provide these services to the community and evaluate how well we do our job as a system.

MAPP will also be conducting a community survey and hosting several focus groups throughout the county. Another MAPP team will be looking at health data to assess how healthy our county is.

The MAPP vision also explains that Will County strives to be a progressive community that maximizes the use of community partnerships, and collaboration among all sectors to ensure, enhance and promote comprehensive, quality, and equitable education, health care and social services.



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The MAPP Project won't end when the needs of Will County have been identified and a community plan has been established. The goal of MAPP is to capitalize on the partnerships established and work together collaboratively to address Will County needs.

For more information about these assessments, or the MAPP Project, contact Vanessa Newsome at 815-727-5089 or via email at [vnewsome@willcountyhealth.org](mailto:vnewsome@willcountyhealth.org).